

THURSDAY, December 24, 1863.

CHRISTMAS—THE SITUATION.

To-morrow the holidays will open, and we take occasion to wish our readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. The boys in the windows, the busy preparations for the coming year, and the shouts of the children, remind us that the season of merry-making is at hand. And no season of the year is so fit for rejoicing. The anniversary of the birth of that mysterious and wonderful Being who came into the world to save a ruined race, to be as it is, celebrated throughout the Christian world, with more enthusiasm than any other. Eighteen hundred and sixty-three years ago the old world died, and the new world began, when again the "morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy."

While we eat, drink, and are merry, we should not forget the soldiers who to whose valor and arms we owe the security in which we enjoy our day. We read greeting to our fathers and assure them that the citizens of Lancaster, as in most other cities in the State, have cared for their families and that to-day there is going on at Cincinnati the most remarkable fair in history, for the benefit of their sick and wounded comrades.

So near the end of the year it is not unfair to make a brief review of the progress of this great war for the maintenance of free government, and to take a glimpse at the situation.

Two years ago this Christmas the territorial area of the so-called Confederate States, as claimed by the rebels, comprised thirteen States, with an area of 899,290 square miles. Then the military lines of Jeff Davis extended from Harper's Ferry, through Northwestern Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri, including and holding about 750,000 square miles of this territorial area. One year ago this Christmas, the armed forces of the rebellion, with the exception of guerrilla bands, had been driven from one-third of Virginia, the whole of Kentucky and Missouri, two-thirds of Arkansas, one-half of Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas, and from portions of all the other rebel States. And to-day there is under the control of the rebellion only about 270,000 square miles of territory or about one-fourth of the territorial area originally claimed. During the year, by the capture of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, the rebel armies of the Mississippi Valley were disposed of, and the great river opened to its mouth; thus, practically, rescuing from the rebellion the States of Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. The big brilliant operations of Grant at Chattanooga and of Burnside in East Tennessee, give us possession of the whole of Tennessee, and open the way into the heart of Georgia. Another similar success in that quarter will separate the Gulf States from the Confederacy, and reduce the territorial limits of the rebellion to portions of Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia.

During the year the losses to the rebel armies have been proportioned to the loss in territory. It is estimated by Surgeon General Hammond that Lee's army, by the invasion of Pennsylvania, lost 16,500 men, and the total loss to the rebels during the month of July, amounted to about 100,000, leaving to the rebellion East of the Mississippi River about 150,000 armed men.

These losses, with the heavy blows recently inflicted upon the rebel armies with the great and distressing scarcity of food in the South, and with the present condition of the rebellion, leave the Confederacy in an exhausted and hopeless situation. A complete victory is inevitable, and as the rebel Secretary, Meminger, says, "the country must succumb."

With the usual holiday rejoicings, then, we have ended this great cause for rejoicing, viz: the success of the Federal arms. The rebellion is nearly suppressed, and another Christmas may see the Union restored, perhaps without slavery, and the greatest government on the earth firmly established for centuries to come.

Noble County Conspirators.

Judge Leavitt, in the Circuit Court of the United States for the Southern District of Ohio, pronounced sentence upon the Noble County conspirators as follows:

"Upon the whole, after full reflection, I shall adjudge the defendants, McPerran and Boyle, to pay each a fine of \$500 and costs. The defendant Raley is more guilty than the others, and it is my duty to make a discrimination against him. He is therefore adjudged to pay a fine of \$1,000, and stand committed until the fine and his proportion of the costs are paid."

Resisting the government of the United States is rather an unprofitable business, we should think. It is to be regretted that the law cannot punish those who are morally responsible for this resistance to the government. The poor dupes who support the overt act, must always pay the penalty, instead of the shrewd ones who work the wires.

THE DUTY OF UNION MEN.

Since the election we fear there is a collapse and want of effort among the Union men of the county. While the enemy is busy selecting his officers, brigading his forces, and drilling his troops, the Union men must not lie idle in camp and be unprepared for the battle. The most important Presidential contest in the history of the nation will take place during the coming Summer and Fall, and there is a weighty responsibility resting upon the Union men of the county. The great business of prosecuting the war until the rebellion is suppressed must be kept constantly in view, and no Union man must be turned aside by the cry of Abolition or by complaints against the Administration. We must remain united upon the simple issue of suppressing the rebellion and restoring the Union, and if slavery falls by the war, or by the voluntary act of the Southern people, let it fall. No good Union man will regret it, but on the contrary will rejoice at it.

It is the duty of Union men to organize by townships and school districts and to keep alive their organizations. Let them form companies and associations and meet often for drill and discipline in political warfare. Every bash which holds a Butternut must be attacked. At the late election the majority of the opposition in the county was reduced from 1899 to 638, and the majority in the city to 18. These may be overcome by thorough organization and a vigorous fight. The Vallandigham movement and the Vallandigham leaders are in bad odor with the people, many of whom acknowledge that they have been deceived. The masses everywhere begin to understand that the truly Democratic party—that party which battles for the dignity and liberty of the people, and which battles for republican institutions against those which are aristocratic and monarchial—is the Union party.

Amendments to the Conscription Act.

We publish elsewhere Senator Wilson's amendment to the Conscription Act in full. It repeals the \$300 clause, and compels every man drafted to furnish a substitute or go in person. It also puts the first and second classes into one, thus including all between the ages of 20 and 45 in the first draft. Agents and attorneys for making out and causing to be executed any papers in support of a claim for exemption, or for any service rendered to the claimant, are allowed a fee not exceeding five dollars, and Surgeons are allowed no compensation for furnishing certificates of disability.

Dispatches from Washington state that if the amendments cannot be gotten through Congress before the holiday recess, the draft will be postponed until it can take place under the amended law.

We are decidedly in favor of merging the two classes into one, and have nothing to say against the repeal of the \$300 clause. The Government wants men, not money. They cannot be had as long as men can buy their exemption at the low price of \$300.

WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM MILITARY DUTY UNDER THE CONSCRIPTION LAW.

1st. Vice President, Heads of Executive Departments, and Governors of States.

2d. The only son liable to military duty of a widow dependent upon his labor for support.

3d. The only son of aged or infirm parent or parents dependent upon his labor for support.

4th. Where there are two or more sons of aged or infirm parents subject to draft, the father, or if he be dead, the mother may elect which son shall be exempt.

5th. The only brother of children not twelve years old, having neither father nor mother, dependent upon his labor for support.

6th. The father of motherless children under 12 years of age dependent upon his labor for support.

7th. Where there are a father and sons in the same family and household, and two of them are in the military service of the United States as non-commissioned officers, musicians or privates—the residue of such family and household not exceeding two, shall be exempt.

8th. Any person convicted of a felony.

DELAWARE—The Copperhead papers say that the Democrats of Delaware did not vote at the late election, because of military restrictions, and unauthorized tests of loyalty. The New York Herald a democratic paper, noticing this, says:

"But when we come to look at this new test, it is simply the test of an oath to support the Constitution and the Government of the United States, and to give no aid or comfort to the rebellion. One would think this not a very hard dose for a genuine loyal citizen, and the man who would rather lose his vote, than to take the oath of allegiance to the military power of the United States would be very apt to enforce a similar oath if he had a chance, in favor of Jeff Davis."

The Herald hits where it hurts.

In consequence of ill-health, Judge Gholson resigned his place as one of the Supreme Judges of the State; and Governor Tod has appointed Hon. JOSEPH SWAN to fill the vacancy thus created.

[From the Nashville Union.]

The Voice of Henry Clay.

"On which side would Henry Clay be, were he alive to-day?" asked a Tennessee Whig, the other day—a Tennessee Whig, who, after following for years, the standard of Henry Clay, strayed away in 1861 into the treasonable folds of secession and disunion. Could he, really, have felt a doubt? Could he believe, for a moment, that Henry Clay would be on any other side than that of his country—for the Union and against any and all its foes? His own treachery and cowardice, not his knowledge of the history of the great western statesman and orator, must have suggested the interrogatory. Were Henry Clay alive to-day, he would be found exerting his great talents and influence to rebuke treason and traitors everywhere, and keep the people of the loyal States up to the true standard of faith in Republican institutions, and to their duty to themselves, to posterity, and to the human race to push on the war, until, as Gov. Johnson has said, "treason is made odious and traitors are punished." Near the close of his career, on the 17th of May, 1851, Mr. Clay wrote a letter to Thos. B. Stevenson, Esq., in which his views of the duty of the people of the United States were distinctly expressed. The following is an extract from that letter:

"You ask what is to be done if South Carolina secedes? I answer unhesitatingly that the Constitution and laws of the United States must continue to be enforced there, with all the power of the Union if necessary. Secession is treason, and if it were not—it would be a virtual dissolution of the Union. For if any one State may secede every State may secede; and how long in such a state of things could we keep together? Suppose Kentucky were to secede? Could the rest of the Union tolerate a foreign power in their very bosom? There are those who think that the Union must be preserved and kept together by an exclusive reliance on love and reason. That is not my opinion. I have some confidence in the instrumentality, but depend upon it, that no human Government can exist without the power of applying force, and the actual application of it in extreme cases. My belief is, that if it should be applied to South Carolina, in the event of her secession, she would be speedily reduced to obedience, and that the Union instead of being weakened, would acquire additional strength."

Had the Union men of Tennessee in 1861, acted upon the counsel of Mr. Clay, given in this letter, instead of deceiving themselves with the paltry catch-word of "no coercion," they might have saved their State the supreme folly of embarking in a revolt against the Federal Government, and themselves, their wives, children and friends the sufferings which have been visited upon them. Let them not try to hide their cowardice, by attempting to create a doubt, as to what, in times like these, would be the position of Clay or Jackson, or any of the great Union statesmen who lived and died, true to their manhood, and to their country.

The following are the members of Congress, who voted for Fernando Wood's resolution to send Commissioners to Jeff Davis to beg him to allow the restoration of the Union, when he had just declared in his message, that the only possible condition of peace, was the separation of the seceded from the adhering States of the Union:

Messrs James C. Allen, William J. Allen, Ancona, N. Baldwin, Bliss, Brooks, Chandler, Clay, Coffroth, Cox, Cravens, Dawson, Dennison, Eden, Edgerton, Eldridge, English, Fink, Grider, Harding, Harrington, Harris, (Maryland) Harris, (Illinois) Herrick, Holmes, Johnson, (Ohio) Kernan, King, Knapp, Law, Lazarus, LeBlond, Long, Mallory, Marcy, McDowell, McKenney, Miller, (Pennsylvania), Morris, (Ohio) Morrison, Nelson, Noble, Odell, O'Neil, (Ohio) Pendleton, Robinson, Rollins, (Missouri) Ross, Scott, Stebbins, Steele, (New York) Stuart, Sweet, Vorhees, Wadsworth, Chilton, N. White, Joseph W. White, Winfield, and Fernando Wood.

It will be observed that the Ohio delegation figures largely in this list of miscreants. Messrs Pendleton and Long voted with Fernando Wood. Let the record be kept.—Cin. Com.

And let the record be kept that Mr. Finck, the Democratic member from this District, also voted with Fernando Wood.

The Wool Growers' Convention.

In accordance with the expressed wishes and advice of many members of the Ohio Wool Growers' Association, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Association, together with a public Convention of Wool Growers and those interested in wool growing, in the city of Columbus, on Tuesday, the 5th day of January, 1864, to meet for the presentation of business, at 10 o'clock A. M., of that day, and to continue in session during the pleasure of the Convention.

A public Address will be delivered before the Convention, on Wednesday evening, January 6th, by Hon. Henry S. Randall, of Cortland Village, N. Y. We cordially invite the attendance of all persons interested in the production, handling, or consumption of sheep and wool.

S. D. HARRIS, President.

S. PARK ALEXANDER, Secretary.

*All Editors friendly to the objects of this Association are requested to publish this notice in their papers.

Soldiers' Voting Law Constitutional.

The constitutionality of the Soldiers' Voting Law in Iowa was brought in question before the Supreme Court of that State, by some of the Democratic candidates who were defeated by its effects at the late election.

After a full investigation of the whole subject, the Court on last Friday, pronounced a unanimous decision that the law allowing soldiers to vote is constitutional and valid.

The decision secures to Hon. J. B. Grinnell, of that State, his seat in Congress, and the election of about 150 Union county officers in that State.—Wilmington Republican.

The Amendments to the Conscription Act.

Senator Wilson's Amendment in Full.

The following is the bill introduced by Senator Wilson, in the Senate:

An act to amend an act entitled "An Act for Enrolling and Calling out the National Forces, and for other purposes." Approved March 3d, 1863.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the President is hereby authorized, whenever he shall deem it necessary, to call upon the several States for such numbers of men for the military service of the United States as the exigencies of the country may require.

Section 2. And be it further enacted, That if any State shall fail to furnish, within the time designated by the President, the number of men required therefrom, the Provost Marshal of the District within which any ward of a city, town, or township, or county, when the same is not divided into wards, towns or townships, which is deficient in its quota is situated, shall under orders of the Provost Marshal General, make a draft for the number deficient therefrom; but all volunteers who may enlist after the draft is ordered, and before it is actually made, shall be deducted from the number ordered to be drafted.

Section 3. And be it further enacted, That section three of the act entitled "An Act for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1863, be, and the same is hereby repealed, and shall be the duty of the Board of Enrollment of each district to consolidate the two classes provided for in third section of said act.

Section 4. And be it further enacted, That any person enrolled under the provisions of the act approved March 3, 1863, entitled "An Act for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes," may furnish at any time an acceptable substitute, and he shall be exempted from draft during the time for which such substitute has been accepted.

Section 5. And be it further enacted, That Provost Marshals, Boards of Enrollment, or any member thereof, shall have power to summon witnesses and enforce their attendance by an attachment in any case pending before them or either of them, and the same witnesses fees and costs shall be allowed as may be allowed in the Courts of the United States, and to administer oaths and affirmations; and any person who shall swear or affirm falsely before any Provost Marshal or Board of Enrollment, or before any civil magistrate, to any affidavit to be used in any case pending before any Provost Marshal or Board of Enrollment shall, on conviction, be fined not exceeding \$500, and imprisoned not less than six months nor more than twelve months.

Section 6. And be it further enacted, That copies of any record of a Provost Marshal or Board of Enrollment, or of any part thereof, certified to as correct by the Provost Marshal, or a majority of said Board of Enrollment, shall be deemed and taken as evidence in any civil or military Court, in like manner as the original record; and that the person or persons certifying to the correctness of such record, who shall knowingly make or certify to a false copy or copies of such record shall be subject to the pains and penalties of perjury.

Section 7. And be it further enacted, That all claims to exemption shall be verified by the oath of the party to the truth of the facts stated, if within his personal knowledge; and to his belief in their truth if not within his personal knowledge; and the testimony of any other party filed in support of a claim to exemption shall be under oath.

Section 8. And be it further enacted, That if any person drafted and liable to render military service shall procure a decision of the Commissioners in his favor upon a claim to exemption or a discharge from the Examining Surgeon, procured by any fraud practiced by himself or by any other person, with his knowledge and consent, or by any false statement or representation, wilfully made by himself, or any other person with his knowledge and consent, with the intent to evade military service, or by giving or agreeing to give to the Provost Marshal or any of his Deputies, or either of the Commissioners, or the Examining Surgeon, or to any other person for their use or benefit, directly or indirectly, any bribe, pecuniary consideration or other inducement, or by holding out or offering to them any gain or advantage of any kind, such decision or discharge shall be of no effect, and the person so discharged, or in whose favor the decision is made, shall be deemed a deserter, and may be arrested, tried by a Court-marshal, and punished as such, and shall be held to service for the full term for which he was drafted, reckoning from the time of his arrest.

Section 9. And be it further enacted, That any person who shall procure, or attempt to procure, the discharge by the Examining Surgeon of any person drafted and liable to render service, or a decision in favor of such person by the Commissioners upon a claim to exemption by any such means, shall, upon conviction in any District or Circuit Court of the United States, be punished by imprisonment for the period for which the party was drafted.

Section 10. And be it further enacted, That any person who shall represent directly or indirectly, to a drafted man that he has an understanding or secret influence with the Provost Marshal, Deputy Provost Marshals, Commissioners, or Surgeons, or either of them, or with any other person, through which he can procure, or aid in procuring, the discharge of said drafted man for physical disability, or the decision in his favor of any claim to exemption, or aid in procuring such discharge or decision through any such understanding or influence, or by any similar means, or who shall receive any money or other consideration for procuring or for promising to procure, or to aid in procuring, such discharge or decision through any such understanding

ing or influence, or by any similar means, shall, upon conviction in any District or Circuit Court of the United States, be punished by imprisonment for the period for which said person was drafted.

Section 11. And be it further enacted, That the fees of agents and attorneys for making out and causing to be executed any papers in support of a claim for exemption from draft, or for any services that may be rendered to the claimant, shall not in any case exceed five dollars, and surgeons furnishing certificates of disability to any claimant for exemption from draft shall not be entitled to any fees or compensation, and that any agent or attorney who shall, directly or indirectly, demand or receive any greater compensation for his services under this act, and any surgeon who shall, directly or indirectly, demand or receive any compensation for furnishing said certificates of disability, shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall, for every such offense, be fined not exceeding \$300, or be imprisoned at hard labor not exceeding 12 months, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offense.

Section 12. And be it further enacted, That any person enrolled who shall remove from any ward of a city, town or township, or from a county where the same is not divided into wards, towns or townships, may, on application to the proper Board of Enrollment, be enrolled in the place of residence to which he has removed, and have his name stricken from the rolls of his former place of residence; and the Board of Enrollment shall have power to enroll any person whose name shall have been omitted by the enrolling officer.

Statistics of the Twelfth Collection District.

We are indebted to C. F. SHELLEFF, Esq. Assessor of the Twelfth Collection District, for the annual assessment for the year 1863, together with the recapitulation by counties, from which we gather the following statistics:

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|-----------------------|-------------|
| Income at 3 per cent. | \$35,356 36 |
| " 5 per cent. | 8,375 55 |
| " 1 1/2 do. U. S. | 125 26 |
| Total. | \$43,857 17 |

LICENCES FOR 1863.

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|--|-------------|
| Apothecaries. | 833 25 |
| Architects and Engineers. | 21 67 |
| Auctioneers. | 264 05 |
| Bankers. | 456 63 |
| Brewers, at \$50. | 65 66 |
| Brewers, at 25. | 175 03 |
| Billiard Rooms. | 48 32 |
| Bowling Alleys. | 18 32 |
| Brokers in Money. | 366 63 |
| " Commercial. | 262 38 |
| " Cattle. | 582 18 |
| Builders and Contractors. | 75 00 |
| Butchers. | 133 80 |
| Butchers from Wagons. | 249 05 |
| Claim Agents. | 191 71 |
| Dentists. | 55 86 |
| Distillers at \$50. | 33 33 |
| " 25. | 93 76 |
| Eating Houses. | 13 34 |
| Horse Dealers. | 116 69 |
| Hotels, 4th Class. | 41 67 |
| " 5th, Class. | 33 34 |
| " 6th, Class. | 58 75 |
| " 7th, Class. | 201 75 |
| " 8th, Class. | 214 82 |
| Insurance Agents. | 11 67 |
| Lawyers. | 490 19 |
| Livery Stable Keepers. | 123 38 |
| Manufacturers. | 1266 51 |
| Peddlers, 1st Class. | 79 98 |
| " 2d Class. | 425 42 |
| " 3d Class. | 204 24 |
| " 4th Class. | 61 66 |
| Peddlers of Jewelry. | 16 67 |
| Photographers, receipts less than \$500. | 60 62 |
| do. less than \$1,000. | 20 60 |
| do. over \$1,000. | 83 35 |
| Physicians. | 1116 34 |
| Rectifiers. | 158 25 |
| Retail Dealers. | 3562 29 |
| Retail Liquor Dealers. | 6037 14 |
| Stallions and Jacks. | 1114 94 |
| Wholesale Dealers. | 1518 83 |
| Wholesale Liquor Dealers. | 427 94 |
| Penalty. | 55 61 |
| Total. | \$20,814 31 |

ANNUAL LIST FOR CLASS C.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Billiard Tables for use. | 93 34 |
| Carrriages valued at \$75 and over one horse. | 1679 00 |
| do. not over \$200, two horses. | 718 00 |
| do. over \$200, two horses. | 80 00 |
| Silver Plate kept for use. | 176 67 |
| Penalty. | 50 |
| Total. | \$2746 91 |

RECAPITULATION.

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|
| Class A. | Class B. | Class C. | Total. | |
| Property. | \$1919 04 | 1624 47 | 27 67 | \$3561 18 |
| License. | 47 03 | 126 82 | 111 60 | 305 45 |
| Penalty. | 714 71 | 470 75 | 75 14 | 1260 60 |
| Drinking. | 1429 09 | 446 83 | 681 81 | 2557 73 |
| Drugs. | 1249 21 | 693 78 | 731 62 | 2674 61 |
| Poke. | 674 29 | 165 62 | 74 24 | 814 15 |
| Total. | \$3857 47 | 2614 31 | 276 91 | \$6748 69 |

Draft to be Postponed Twenty Days—Movements of the Russian Fleet.

WASHINGTON, December 21.—Congress will adjourn by the middle of the week, for the holidays, and the draft will be postponed twenty days. The Russian Fleet leaves for Portsmouth Monday during the present week. Mr. Lincoln will visit the Admiral in his flag-ship, Tuesday or Wednesday. The House Military Committee will not consider the \$300 commutation until after the holidays.

Madame Porter's Curative Balsam has long tested the truth that there are first principles in Medicine as there are in Science, and this Medicine is compounded on principles suited to the manifold nature of Man. The cure of colds is in keeping open the pores, and creating a gentle internal warmth, and this is caused by the use of this medicine. Its remedial qualities are based on its power to assist the healthy and vigorous circulation of blood through the lungs, it enlivens the muscles, and assists the skin to perform its duties of regulating the heat of the system, and in gently throwing off the waste substance from the surface of the body. It is not a violent remedy, but emollient, warming, searching and effective. See advertisement.

GENERAL HALLECK'S REPORT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The report of the General in chief is a very lengthy document. It is mainly a grand summary of military operations since his last annual report. Referring to the Department of the Potomac, the General says that Burnside's proposed change of base was not approved by him. Burnside, therefore, consented to cross his army by the fords of the Upper Rappahannock, and then move down to seize the heights of Fredericksburg, while a small force was to be sent north of the river, to enable Burnside to re-open the railroad.

This plan was assented to, but not approved. Burnside, instead of crossing the Rappahannock, by fords, as he was expected to do, marched his whole army down to the north bank of that river. Lee's army, in the meantime moved down to the south bank of the river, at this time fordable a few miles above the town, and Sumner asked permission to cross and occupy the heights, but it was refused, and no attempt was made to effect a passage till December 1st, by which time Lee's armies had been concentrated.

It is alleged the defeat which we suffered soon after, resulted from neglect to forward the pontoon train from Washington, whereas the pontoons, at that time, were at Berlin, with the Army of the Potomac; the delay, therefore, was unavoidable, and, upon investigation of matters, Burnside pronounced it so.

As to the situation of affairs in Grant's department, the General-in-chief says it has been alleged that Grant positively disobeyed the instructions of his superiors. It is hardly necessary to remark that Grant never disobeyed an order; moreover, he has never complained that the Government did not furnish him all the means and assistance in its power to facilitate the execution of any plan he saw fit to adopt.

The General suggests that, as the rebel army lives upon the country through which it passes, the Federal army do the same, as it facilitates rapidity of movement. Our commanders in rebel States hardly ever find supplies, and in border States it is difficult to distinguish between friends and enemies.

In regard to sutlers, he says the entire abolition of the system would rid the army of the incumbrance of sutlers' wagons on the march, and the nuisance of sutlers' stalls and booths in camp.

It would improve the discipline and efficiency of troops in many ways, and particularly by removing from camps the evils of drunkenness. It is not difficult to sutlers to act the part of spies, informers, smugglers, and contraband traders.

The General thinks a court-martial too cumbersome a proceeding for a battle field, and suggests some more speedy mode of punishment. He suggests that the Inspector General's Department be merged into the Adjutant General's Department. He recommends several reforms in relation to the organization of regiments, brigades and corps. He claims that the cartel for the exchange of prisoners has been violated in relation to colored soldiers.

Important to the Families of those who are held as Prisoners of War.

Editor Ohio State Journal.—The War Department has made provision for paying the amount due soldiers of the United States army, held as prisoners of war by the rebel authorities, to their families; the Government retaining at least one month's pay to cover any differences on account that may exist.

The order of payment is as follows:

1st. The wife.

2d. If no wife, to the guardian of his minor children.

3d. If he has neither wife or children, then to his widowed mother.

If persons occupying either of the above relationships to a prisoner of war will communicate with me I will give them such instructions and assistance, gratuitously, as will enable them to procure the pay due him, if they will furnish me with the following data:

Name of applicant, town or township and county where resident; relationship to the prisoner; name of prisoner; his rank; company and regiment to which he belongs; name of Captain; when and where he volunteered; when and where he was taken prisoner; and where held as such. If the name of Captain, and when and where he volunteered is not accurately known by the applicant, I can ascertain it from the records in the Adjutant General's Office.

The application, after being perfected, has to be sent to the proper officer of the Department where the Regiment to which the prisoner belongs is serving. In some cases a longer delay in payment ensues than the applicant anticipates; this caused by Paymasters being absent in the field making payment to troops, and access cannot be had to rolls by the officers to whom the applications are sent, to enable them to make up the accounts until their return.

On the 2d instant, I applied for pay for the wife of a prisoner of war, and yesterday received a draft for the amount due. About the same time I made other applications, and have received notice that the money would be forwarded as soon as Paymasters returned from duty in the field. I merely mention this to show that these delays are unavoidable, and that the applications are not neglected. Seldom or ever is payment delayed more than a month from the time the application is made.

As this is a matter in which persons in all parts of our State are interested, I trust that newspapers throughout the State will give this publicity.

JAMES E. LEWIS,

Ohio State Military Claim Agent.

The official account of our captures during the year of the war ending at the date of General Halleck's report is as follows:

| | | | |
|------------|--------|--------|-----|
| Colors. | 52 | Boats. | 128 |
| Prisoners. | 86,784 | | |